

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 BIB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 IO-10 /083 W

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R 121423ZSEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 714

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY SOPHIA

/AMCONSUL ADANA 4783

AMCONGEN ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION USNATO

CINCUSAFE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TU, BU, RO, UR

SUBJECT: TURKEY'S RELATIONS WITH HER COMMUNIST NEIGHBORS

1. DURING THE SUMMER THE PACE OF DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY BETWEEN TURKEY AND ITS COMMUNIST NEIGHBORS QUICKENED. ON JUNE 30 THE ROMANIAN FONMIN VISITED TURKEY. ON JULY 9 A NEW ECONOMIC AGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIET UNION WAS SIGNED. ON JULY 20 PRIMIN DEMIREL AND BULGARIAN STATE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN ZHIVKOV MET ON THE TURKISH-BULGARIAN BORDER. ON AUGUST 19 PRESIDENT KORUTURK, WHILE TOURING ALONG THE BLACK SEA COAST, MADE AN UNUSUALLY WARM STATEMENT ABOUT TURKISH-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP. ON AUGUST 27 PRIMIN DEMIREL, ACCOMPANIED BY FONMIN CAGLAYANGIL VISITED ROMANIA. ON SEPTEMBER 1 BULGARIAN FONMIN MLADENOV VISITED TURKEY

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(ANKARA 6837), AND ON SEPTEMBER 10 SOVIET AMBASSADOR RODIONOV CALLED ON PRESIDENT KORUTURK . ACCORDING TO THE PRESS RODIONOV PRESENTED A VERBAL MESSAGE FROM HIS GOVERNMENT EXPRESSING SATISFACTION AT PROGRESS IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

2. IN A RECENT CONVERSATION WITH AN EMBOFF, THE CHIEF OF MFA SECTION OF ALBANIAN, BULGARIAN, ROMANIAN AND YUGOSLAVIAN AFFAIRS, ATILA SUNAY SAID RECENT ACTIVITIES DID NOT REFLECT A CHANGE IN POLICY NOR DID THEY CONSTITUTE AN ATTEMPT TO COUNTER THE GREEK DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVE IN THE BALKANS, BUT RATHER THEY WERE NORMAL ADJUSTMENTS TO "POST HELSINKI" REALITIES. HE SAID DEMIREL'S VISIT TO ROMANIA WAS PLEASANT AND GENERALLY SUCCESSFUL FROM AN ATMOSPHERIC POINT OF VIEW, BUT NOTHING OF GREAT SUBSTANCE WAS ACCOMPLISHED. ROMANIA PROPOSED A TREATY OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP; TURKEY REFUSED TO SIGN A TREATY BUT DID SIGN A JOINT DELCARATION.

3. THE EMPHASIS IN BOTH THE ROMANIAN AND BULGARIAN TALKS WAS ON ECONOMIC ISSUES, BUT SUNAY SAID TURKEY EXPECTS ONLY A MODEST INCREASE IN ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH THE TWO COUNTRIES. HE SAID BOTH COUNTRIES ERE INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING BETTER ACCESS TO TRANSPORTATION ROUTES THROUGH TURKEY IN ORDER TO DEVELOP MARKETS IN IRAN AND OTHER OIL RICH COUNTRIES. TURKEY IS ALSO INTERESTED IN EASING BULGARIAN TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS ON TURKISH WORKERS TRAVELLING TO AND FROM WESTERN EUROPE. SUNAY SAID BULGARIANS PRO-FESSED NOT TO UNDERSTAND A TURKISH PROPOSAL FOR RECIPROCAL FREE TRANSIT VISAS, SO NO PROGRESS WAS MADE ON THAT SUBJECT.

4. COMMENT: THE INCREASED DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY CATALOGUED IN PARA 1 PROBABLY DOES NOT REFLECT ANY DRAMATIC SHIFT IN TURKISH FOREIGN PLYCY; HOWEVER, IT DOES APPEAR TO BE PART OF A GENERAL EFFORT BY THE GOT TO EXPAND ITS RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING COMMUNIST AND NON-ALIGNED TO LAY THE FOUNDATIONS FOR MORE BASIC REORIENTATION OF ITS FOREIGN POLICY IF THAT SHOULD BECOME NECESSARY. THE CALL ON PRESIDENT KORUTURK BY THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR IS NOTEWORTHY MAINLY FOR ITS TIMING AND THE LOCAL COMMENT IT HAS GENERATED. COMING DURING A PERIOD OF STRAINED TURKISH-U.S. RELATIONS, THE SOVIET LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AMBASSADOR'S CALL HAS BEEN INTERPRETED BY THE PRESS AS A HINT TO TURKEY THAT THE SOVIET NION MIGHT BE WILLING TO FILL AT LEAST PART OF THE GAP IF TURKEY SHOULD DECIDE TO TURN HER BACK ON THE UNCERTAIN FRIENSHIP OF THE U.S. MACOMBER

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMITY, COMMUNISTS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, FOREIGN RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ANKARA07034
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750317-0485
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750997/aaaagxhf.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <01 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971021
Subject: TURKEY'S RELATIONS WITH HER COMMUNIST NEIGHBORS
TAGS: PFOR, BU, RO, TU, UR, PFOR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006